

## **SITE VISIT REPORT**

### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

<b>SITE NAME</b>	VIM Recycling, Inc.
<b>LOCATION</b>	29681 Old US Hwy 33, Elkhart, Indiana
<b>DATE</b>	3/21/2009
<b>TIME</b>	1300 -1430 hrs
<b>WEATHER</b>	70F, sunny
<b>EPA STAFF</b>	P. Ruesch
<b>STATE STAFF</b>	
<b>SITE STAFF</b>	Ken Martin (VIM)
<b>OTHER STAFF</b>	
<b>PHOTOS</b>	Available upon request

### **PURPOSE**

J. Garl requested P. Ruesch to stop by the VIM site to become oriented with the site on 3/20/09. The purpose of the visit on 3/21/09 was to obtain a general familiarity with the site and potentially meet the owner/operator.

### **NOTES**

**1300:** Signed in at scale house trailer and notified the dispatcher that a walking tour of the site would be conducted.

**1300 – 1400:** The perimeter of material stockpile area was walked, beginning at the SE corner of the site and proceeding counterclockwise around the perimeter fence. Large, potentially unstable piles of mixed construction and demolition (C&D) debris, ground C&D, mulch, pallets and what appeared to be soil were stockpiled around the site (see photos).

An area along the eastern sideslope of a large windrow of ground construction and demolition debris material was found to be smoking slightly though it was difficult to distinguish as smoke or steam. This location was photographed and found to be hot to the touch (see photos). Evidence of charred wood material was found in the immediate vicinity, and there was clear evidence that this area of the pile had been recently turned or disturbed by heavy equipment.

Puddles of discolored water or leachate were photographed along the perimeter piles along with poor storm water control along the northern fence line of the property (see photos). Impacted run-off was seen to be leaving the site into a residential neighboring yard through the fence. Narrow, winding, partially flooded, unpaved pathways along the perimeter and in between the large piles of materials were noted along with accumulations of impacted leachate or run-off from the stockpiles (see photos).

Site manager Ken Martin approached as I was walking around in the northwestern area of the site. Ken provided a general site orientation, explaining the areas of the site where material was stockpiled, areas which were involved in a fire caused by an explosion, and locations of fire hydrants.

Ken explained that the piles could be processed and removed but that restrictions by IDEM prohibited activity. He provided a tour of the machinery under construction and assembly inside the building, along with a mulch bagging process line (see photos). It was evident that a contractor (a trailer inside the plant with Montana plates) was assembling and painting the components of a C&D processing system inside the building.

**1400 - 1430:** Ken provided an overview of the smoke and odor screening surveys that are regularly conducted at the site on a daily basis and provided copies of the forms on which this information is logged. I relayed my concerns about odors, fires, storm water control, emergency access and dust at the site. I indicated that EPA would be speaking with IDEM about the site and we would likely be contacting VIM to set up a joint meeting to determine next steps. Ken indicated that their consultant, Jim Euler from DECA Environmental, would contact me to provide additional site details.

**1430:** Return to EPA offices.